

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAMA KO 02975 241519Z

42

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00

EB-07 /101 W

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R 241218Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4540

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

RUUHOLAMBTBASEW BONN 195

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 2975

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, ML, GW, UR

SUBJECT: DEFENSE VISITS

REF: MOSCOW 13206 (NOTAL)

1. WEST GERMAN PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
DEFENSE HERMANN SCHMIDT VISITED MALI AUGUST 17-19.
MALIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE KISSIMA DOUKARA MET SCHMIDT
AT THE AIRPORT WITH FULL CEREMONIAL HONORS AND ESCORTED
HIM THROUGHOUT HIS TRIP. AFTER TALKS WITH MALIAN
AUTHORITIES IN BAMA KO, THE TWO MINISTERS VISITED
HISTORIC TIMBUCKTU BEFORE SCHMIDT CONTINUED ON TO
NIAMEY.

2. THE WEST GERMAN EMBASSY HERE IS UPSET WITH THE
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PAGE 02 BAMA KO 02975 241519Z

WAY SCHMIDT'S TRIP WAS HANDLED. THE TRIP WAS TO

HAVE BEEN AN INFORMAL STOPOVER IN MALI ON THE WAY TO NIAMEY WHERE SCHMIDT HAD SCHEDULED TALKS WITH NIGER AUTHORITIES. A WEEK BEFORE SCHMIDT'S ARRIVAL, MALIAN GOVERNMENT INFORMED THE FRG EMBASSY THAT THE TRIP WOULD BE UPGRADED TO AN OFFICIAL VISIT. ACCORDING TO FRG CHARGE, SCHMIDT RECEIVED THE SAME WELCOME RECENTLY ACCORDED SOVIET MINISTER OF DEFENSE SOKOLOV. THIS WILL CREATE PROTOCOL PROBLEMS ON DOUKARA'S ANNUAL WORKING VISITS TO BONN AND WILL INFLATE MALIAN DEMANDS FOR FRG MILITARY ASSISTANCE. FURTHER, IT CONVENIENTLY PERMITS MALI TO CLAIM MILITARY NON-ALIGNMENT SINCE IT ACCORDED THE SAME WELCOME TO DEFENSE MINISTERS FROM THE WEST AND FROM THE SOVIET BLOC. ACCORDING TO THE FRG CHARGE, HOWEVER, WEST GERMAN MILITARY AID WILL REMAIN THE SAME; TRUCKS AND ROAD BUILDING EQUIPMENT, SOME TRAINING SLOTS FOR PARACHUTISTS, AND A LANGUAGE TRAINING PROGRAM INCLUDING, POSSIBLY, DONATION OF A LANGUAGE LAB.

3. MEANWHILE, FRENCH EMBASSY SOURCES CONFIRMED LATE AUGUST 20 THAT MINISTER OF DEFENSE DOUKARA HAD ACCEPTED SOVIET MINISTER OF DEFENSE USTINOV'S INVITATION TO VISIT THE SOVIET UNION AT THE END OF THE MONTH (REFTEL). DOUKARA IS EXPECTED TO LEAVE BAMAKO AUGUST 26 TO CONCLUDE DISCUSSIONS BEGUN DURING VICE-MINISTER OF DEFENSE SOKOLOV'S JULY 19-23 VISIT TO MALI. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY MOSCOW CAN PROVIDE ON OUTCOME OF THESE TALKS. RAWSON

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